

MAY 20, 2016

Solar & Agriculture Addressed in Upcoming Workshop

A land use training workshop sponsored by Oneida-Herkimer Comprehensive Planning Program will take place on Thursday, June 9, 2016 from 5 pm to 8:45 pm at the Utica campus of Mohawk Valley Community College.

Two topics will be covered: Solar Energy Regulation and Balancing Agriculture and Related Uses in the Community. The solar portion will address the authority of local governments to regulate photovoltaic solar systems from modest residential and agricultural systems to large scale institutional and commercial solar arrays and sun farms. Environmental and economic benefits and aesthetic challenges will also be discussed, as well as tools such as the New York State Unified Solar Permit are provided to allow solar arrays and regulate their impacts.

The agricultural portion will cover certain farm related uses in state Agricultural Districts and explore some of the agricultural uses and scenarios in which local governments' ability to regulate them through zoning is limited.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$10.00 and is available at www.ocgov.net/oneida/planning/. Send completed registration forms in by June 1, 2016 to Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, Boehlert Center @ Union Station, 321 Main St., Utica, NY 13501 Phone: (315) 798-5710.

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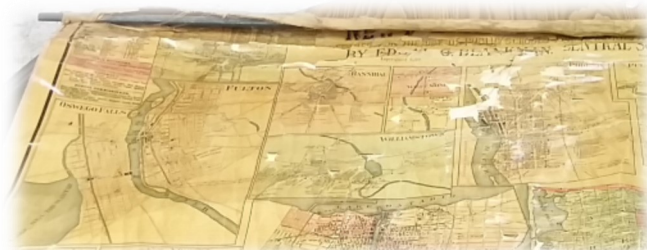
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Historical Map Donated to Half-Shire Historical Society

At a recent visit to the Half-Shire Historical Society, the commission donated a large format, late 1800's map of Oswego County to add to the historical society's collection. Most of the towns in eastern Oswego County, including the towns of Albion, Boylston, Orwell, Parish, Redfield and Williamstown as well as the Lewis County town of Osceola and Oneida County towns of Florence and Camden, work together with Half-Shire to preserve and share their history. The society's facility in the town of Richland also includes significant genealogy records for the area.

More information is available on their website: <http://halfshire.org/>.





RSVPs for the Black River Watershed Conference are required by May 26th!! The agenda and registration form is available on our website www.tughill.org or you can contact Jennifer Harvill at 785-2380 for more information.

CTHC Updates Website

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) recently began updating their website with the help of Riverside Media of Clayton. The new format is much easier to work with and CTHC Coordinator Angie Kimball is continuing to work on editing the site. Each of the CTHC's 16 towns has the capacity to have a static page on the CTHC website and towns should contact Angie (angela@tughill.org or 599-8825) if they would like information added to or edited on their page. Also included on the new site is a section for "Upcoming Events" on the home page, where dates and locations of upcoming meetings and trainings will be listed. Also new, minutes from the spring and fall meetings will be available for review under the documents section.

Most of the existing site has been transferred to the new site including: links to the circuit riders email addresses and contact information; many historical documents and projects as well as the Resource Management Plan; the information on the Cooperative Tug Hill Zoning Board of Appeals; links to our partner agencies and the listing of the town representatives and executive board.

Work will continue on the new site and things will be much easier to update now, so check out our updated site at www.tughillcouncil.com and let us know what you think.

Leyden Plan Nearing Completion

The town of Leyden planning board is wrapping up work on a new comprehensive plan. Members have been meeting monthly over the past year analyzing community indicators and brainstorming on opportunities to improve the town. The first public hearing on the plan was held May 5th. After review by the Lewis County Planning Board, the plan will be finalized and adopted by the town board this summer.

RACOG Approves Deferiet as New Member

On May 11, members of RACOG unanimously approved a formal request by the village of Deferiet to become a member of the organization based upon a "shared local and regional interest in enhancing sustainable opportunities that support RACOG initiatives – i.e. infrastructure & waterfront development; shared planning & zoning boards; and exploring more cost effective and efficient opportunities to provide services to residents."

Currently, Deferiet is working with the town of Wilna, village of Carthage, Attorney Mark Gebo, Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street and RACOG Circuit Rider Kathy Amyot to form a shared planning board to maximize efficiencies and effectiveness. As a new member of RACOG, the village is also planning to work towards becoming a sitting member on the Joint Zoning Board of Appeals.

In preparing to add Deferiet as a new member to RACOG on June 1st, the Inter-municipal Agreement is being reviewed by the respective boards for authorization.

Grant Applications Available

Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant

The 2016 round of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the US Forest Service is now open, with applications due June 21, 2016. This year's priorities are:

- 1) restore tree canopy lost to infestation by emerald ash borer;
- 2) create or improve green infrastructure through the planting of trees and other vegetation as part of a local management strategy to maintain and enhance urban watersheds; and
- 3) restore the structure and function of coastal wetlands and lake-affected riparian areas through planting of native trees and diverse vegetation.

The full grant guidelines can be found at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/gl_restore_initiative.shtm.

Projects must be located within the Great Lakes watershed and be endorsed by the NY State Forester. Last year the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District, as the applicant on behalf of the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition, successfully secured \$175,000 to plant trees and build rain gardens in the participating communities.

Community Connect Grant Program

The USDA Rural Development Community Connect Grant program helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service.

The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, spectrum, land or buildings used to deploy broadband service for:

- all residential and business customers located within the Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA)
- all participating critical community facilities (such as public schools, fire stations and public libraries)
- the cost of providing broadband service free of charge to the critical community facilities for 2 years

Less than 10% of the grant amount or up to \$150,000 may be used for the improvement, expansion, construction or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public.

More information is available at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>. **Grants applications are due June 17.**

Mazda Foundation Grant

The Mazda Foundation awards grants to 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations for programs promoting: education and literacy; environmental conservation; cross-cultural understanding; social welfare; or scientific research. Applications are accepted from May 1 through July 1 each fiscal year.

More information at http://www.mazdafoundation.org/Grant_Guidelines.html.

NYS Cyber Security Conference



As our online activities continue to increase, so does the potential for our information ending up in the wrong hands! The total number of identities exposed through data breaches in 2015 was 429 million – up 23% from the previous year.

Learn more about these issues and what you can do to protect your personal data and your organiza-

tion's information by attending the 19th Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference and 11th Annual Symposium on Information Assurance (ASIA) on June 8 and 9 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany .

Registration is **free** to government and public sector employees, including kindergarten-higher education.

For more information, including conference agenda and registration information, visit the conference website at www.its.ny.gov/eiso/conference/2016.

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org
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Electronic versions appear in full color!

Swim Lessons Planned for Summer

Working together with the Carthage YMCA, Carthage Central High School and the villages of Carthage and West Carthage and towns of Champion and Wilna, RACOG approved a contract with the YMCA to provide swim lessons through the American Red Cross Swim Program at its May 11th meeting. The shared service effort provides area families and youth with supervised recreational activities throughout the summer season by maximizing limited local resources.

In addition, members of RACOG operate and maintain an outdoor swim & recreation park at the Joint Village Swim Pool in West Carthage. Managed by the village of West Carthage according to the Department of Health regulations, an ad hoc committee was appointed in 2015 to develop formal guidelines that regulate day-to-day operations and maintenance of the pool.

According to the end of the year report by the village recreation directors and representatives, pool operation was more efficient and effective than previous years. In preparation for the 2016 Summer Recreation Program to begin, members of the ad hoc committee will reconvene to review existing guidelines and explore options and opportunities to enhance existing services.